

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 12, 13 and 24 remain active in this application, Claims 1, 4, 12, 13 and 24 having been amended and Claims 2, 3, 5-11, 14-23 and 25-59 canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 14, 16, 17, 18, 26, 27, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement; Claims 1-12, 16-18, 24 and 27-29 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite; Claims 1, 3, 8-10, 13, 15, 20-22 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenberg et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,897); Claims 7 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Greenberg et al and Kanebako et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,680,471); and Claims 11, 12 and 24 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, the claims have been amendment to reflect subject matter stated in allowable Claims 11, 12, 23 and 24, and to cure the grounds for indefiniteness identified in the outstanding Official Action. To that end, amended Claim 1 states features of original Claims 1, 2, 9 and 11, and amended Claim 13 states features stated in original Claims 13, 14 and 23. Further, in amended Claim 4, "a pair" has been changed to --an edge pair--, and in amended Claim 12, "reference pattern" has been changed to --pattern under inspection--. Finally, in amended claim 24, "the pattern" has been changed to --a pattern--. In view of these changes, the remaining Claims 2, 3, 5-11, 14-23 and 25-29 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Application No. 09/883,945
Reply to Office Action of July 23, 2004

Consequently, in view of the indication of allowable subject matter and the present submission of amended claims directed thereto, and in view of the clarifications introduced in the amended claims, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

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